



[home](#) > [events](#) > [apr2012](#) > transformations of the public sphere

[September](#)

[October](#)

[November](#)

[December](#)

[January](#)

[February](#)

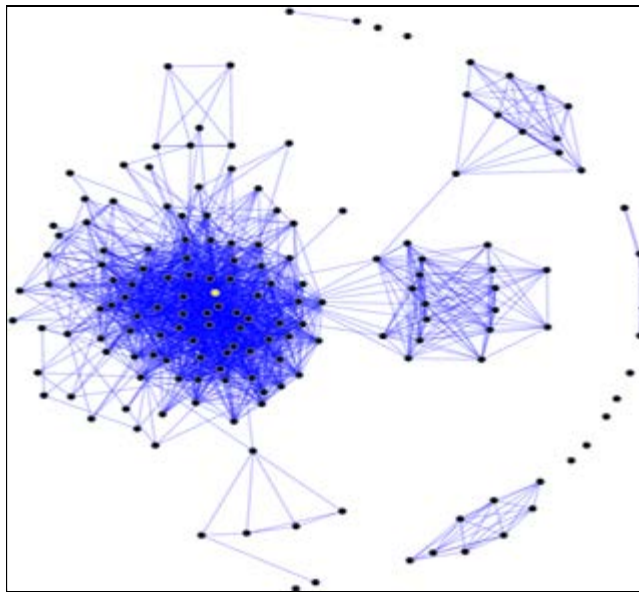
[March](#)

[April](#)

[May](#)

[Event Archives](#)

Conference



Transformations of the Public Sphere

Friday, April 13 - Saturday, April 14, 2012
Mershon Center for International Security Studies
1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

Organizers

The Departments of [Germanic Languages and Literatures](#), [History](#), [Political Science](#), [Spanish & Portuguese](#), and the [Center for Latin American Studies](#)

For more information and to RSVP for this event, please email [May Mergenthaler](#).

Overview

This conference investigates the historical and contemporary significance of the public sphere and modern social imaginaries—of the discourses, norms, and ideas shared by members of a given society. The motivation for such an investigation arises from the growing interdependence of different nations, regions, and communities that

demands and generates new ways of political, legal, economic, strategic, and cultural forms of cooperation. What kind of public spaces facilitate and what kind of shared imaginaries support such cooperation? What aspects in society hinder productive communication and interaction? Does productive social cooperation presuppose certain governmental, in particular democratic structures? Answers to these and related questions will be developed by drawing on several relevant disciplines, including, but not limited to social and political science, cultural theory, philosophy, history, history of science, and media studies.

Program

Friday, April 13, 2012

8 a.m. -- Coffee

Introduction: Bernd Fischer, The Ohio State University (8:30-8:45 am)

8:45 a.m. -- The Common in Aesthetics and Politics

Moderator: Bernhard Malkmus, The Ohio State University

Edgar Landgraf, Bowling Green State University, "The Politicization of the Public in the Context of Niklas Luhmann's Political Theory"

Juliane Rebentisch, Offenbach University of Art and Design, "The Democratic Public and its Aesthetic"

Christoph Menke, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe University Frankfurt, "What is Aesthetic Freedom Today?"

Commentator: Philip Armstrong, The Ohio State University

11 a.m. -- Coffee

11:15 a.m. -- Political Public Spheres

Moderator: Rick Livingston, The Ohio State University

Kam Shapiro, Illinois State University, "Toward a Reflexive Biopolitics: Cognitive and Affective Maps of Global Economies"

Jacob Schiff, University of Toronto, "Structurally Necessary Deformations of the Public Sphere"

Nicholas Kiersey, Ohio University-Chillicothe, "Occupy Wall Street as Immanent Critique: Why 'Communism' Matters for International Relations"

Commentator: Eugene Holland, The Ohio State University

1:30 p.m. -- Lunch (for conference participants)

2:30 p.m. -- Science in the Public Sphere

Moderator: Alan Beyerchen, The Ohio State University

Spencer Weart, "The Evolution of Nuclear Fear"

Joel Wainwright, The Ohio State University, "Climate Leviathan"

Commentator: Alan Beyerchen, The Ohio State University

4:15 p.m. -- Coffee

5 p.m. -- Columbus High Definition (CMHHD): Three architects look at the potential for Columbus to become an international leader in innovative public space and design

Moderator: John Davidson, The Ohio State University
Michael Bongiorno, DesignGroup
Sarah Bongiorno, ACP Visioning+Planning; Knowlton School of
Architecture
Bart Overly, Blostein/Overly Architects; Knowlton School of
Architecture

8 p.m. -- Dinner for conference participants, location TBA

Saturday, April 14, 2012

8:30 a.m. -- Coffee

9 a.m. -- International Public Spheres

Moderator: Jennifer Mitzen, The Ohio State University
Carlos A. Forment, New School of Social Research, New York, "Working
for Citizenship: Democratic Life in Argentina in the Wake of Neo-
Liberal Globalization"
Ignacio Corona, The Ohio State University, "Genderizing the Public
Sphere: Literary Nonfiction by Women in Mexico and Brazil"
Commentator: Anna Puga, The Ohio State University

© 2006-12 Mershon Center for International Security Studies

1501 Neil Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201
Phone: 614.292.1681
Fax: 614.292.2407
Email: mershoncenter@osu.edu